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June 24 1962 - Sunday

Lewis Jones came out this morning to discuss the arrangements for the Secretary's visit. Gene Black lunched with us; then I talked to him for a couple of hours. He will be 65 next May, and expects to retire at the latest by that time, after twelve years of magnificent accomplishment in the bank. I think on the whole he is the best informed individual anywhere on international affairs. He is gravely concerned over the financial situation in the United States, and is at a loss to know what methods might be used to restore confidence. With Dean Rusk, [redacted] Charlie Chaplin, and others, he is to receive an honorary degree at Oxford before going on to Stratford, where he will pursue his favorite studies of Shakespeare.

We went to Northolt Airport to meet the Secretary and his party. Sir Neville Bland was the official greeter for the Foreign Office. They rolled in exactly on time from Rome. Virginia and Dean Rusk, Chip Bohlen, and Foy Kohler are staying with us at the house, as are an undetermined number of security guards. The Prime Minister [redacted] asked Dean and myself to meet him at Alec Home's house in Carlton Gardens before dinner/a half hour in advance of the rest of the party. This we did, and had an amusing conversation.

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We spent most of the afternoon talking about Common Market affairs. At 7:00, I went to the Carlton Club, as guest of Sir Hamilton Kerr, before making a speech to thePrimrose League, of which he is Chancellor. The Primrose League was founded in memory of Benjamin Disraeli. It derives its name from his habit of wearing primroses in his buttonhole. Although closely identified with the Conservative Party, its members are not necessarily in the Parliament, or actively associated with politics. I was interested at dinner in talking to Lord Fairfax, one of the other guests, who has just sold his place, which I know well, in Maryland. It is not far from Washington, and has been in his family ever since the original Culpeper Grant. After an excellent dinner, we went on to Commonwealth Hall, where I embarked on nearly the most lengthy discourse of my life. After an opening of 20 minutes or so, I was questioned so that I hardly drew breath for two hours. It was, for me, at least, an enjoyable occasion.

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My talk was extemporaneous, but I started off along the line of these notes:

Diplomacy has been defined as the management of international relations by negotiation. In my own case, operating through members of our Embassy, or directly, the negotiations between our two governments are never-ending. They include a multitude of trade problems, as well as many of a scientific and technical nature, such as the allocation of radio frequencies. Regarding military affairs, modern developments in weaponry frequently make past settlements or agreements obsolete.

Representatives of our financial unit are in constant contact with their opposite numbers in the British Government, as well as with private or institutional banks, including the Bank of England.

It is, in the political field, that negotiations between our two countries are most widespread. As one reads the telegrams flowing in daily from all regions of the world, one realizes how interdependent, almost indivisible, are the interests of the United Kingdom and the United States.

Often there are no differences between us about policies. Sometimes, differences are sharp. Then resort must be had to negotiation, with the hope of arriving at a reasonable compromise.

There is nothing ugly or undesirable about a compromise, provided it be reasonable, and not imposed by force upon the other party. Our own private and public lives are studded with compromise.

Soviets ceaselessly extol merits of their system. Why don't we of our own.
Reading daily newspapers make one pessimistic.
But West has stood firm and become more prosperous.
Our too impatient. In my 14 years little change.

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This last argument went unanswered, since my recollection is that the book referred in this connection to the father of Dedijer's first wife. He rambled on at some length about the question of courage. He said that while a Partisan, he was once accused of ducking his head under enemy fire, and was cashiered from his unit because of this. Consequently, he felt it incumbent upon him to demonstrate moral and physical courage whenever the opportunity offered. The whole conversation trailed off at this juncture, until momentarily revived by a considerable show of excitability on Dedijer's part.

He thanked me for my participation, shook hands rather coldly with Cy, and departed for Manchester. It was not the most satisfactory conference I have attended.

Polly Wisner came to tea this afternoon. Afterwards, Sulzberger entertained us, Nicky pop-eyed with excitement, about his adventures in various portions of the world. He is an inimitable story-teller, and when he finally writes his reminiscences they should be enthralling.

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April 9, 1962 - Monday

Paul Nitze arrived this morning to stay with us. He will remain a couple of days, before going on to Hamburg, where he is to speak to the Atlantik Brucker.

Sulzberger told me yesterday something which was gratifying to me, in view of the circumstances, entirely beyond my control, under which I left my post in Bonn. Bob Murphy, who had been expected to replace me, almost at the last moment decided not to do so. The result was I went home to try to arrange for an immediate replacement, who turned out to be Red Dowling. As a result, I was unable to return to Bonn to make any official farewells. I rather thought the Chancellor was irritated by this, but according to Sulzberger, he still has kind

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